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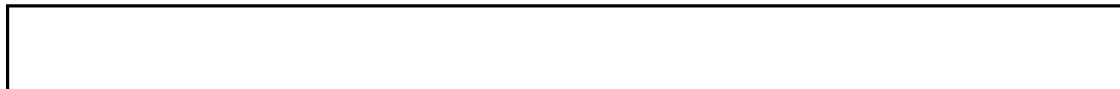
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CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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Cambodia: Phnom Penh is having second thoughts about the advisability of dispatching Cambodian recruits to South Vietnam for military training.

Foreign Minister Koun Wick claims that Vietnamese maltreatment of Cambodian soldiers already training there has been an important contributing factor. US Charge Rives believes that Phnom Penh's reluctance also reflects new confidence that Cambodia can train its own troops, thereby saving the money Saigon is demanding for its services.

It is not entirely clear whether the Cambodian decision is firm, but the near-completion of a Cambodian training camp should also serve to make out-of-country training less attractive. If Phnom Penh does refuse to send any more troops abroad for training, it is likely to leave a residue of ill will and misunderstanding, especially considering the negotiations involved in hammering out the original agreement.

* * * *

Military activity tapered off during the past 24 hours, although heavy fighting continued near the crossroads town of Kralanh west of Siem Reap city. A government position near the town received 250 mortar rounds on 10 August and later two Cambodian battalions were forced to withdraw.

Farther north, in Oddar Meanchey Province, the provincial governor has ordered the evacuation of civilians from Samrong town following a report that a large enemy force was nearby. The town is defended by only 450 poorly armed recruits, and the governor indicated that, if attacked, they could not resist for long. Phnom Penh has indicated its preoccupation with the defense of more densely populated areas nearer the capital and such remote locations as Oddar Meanchey are vulnerable to Communist attack.

[REDACTED]

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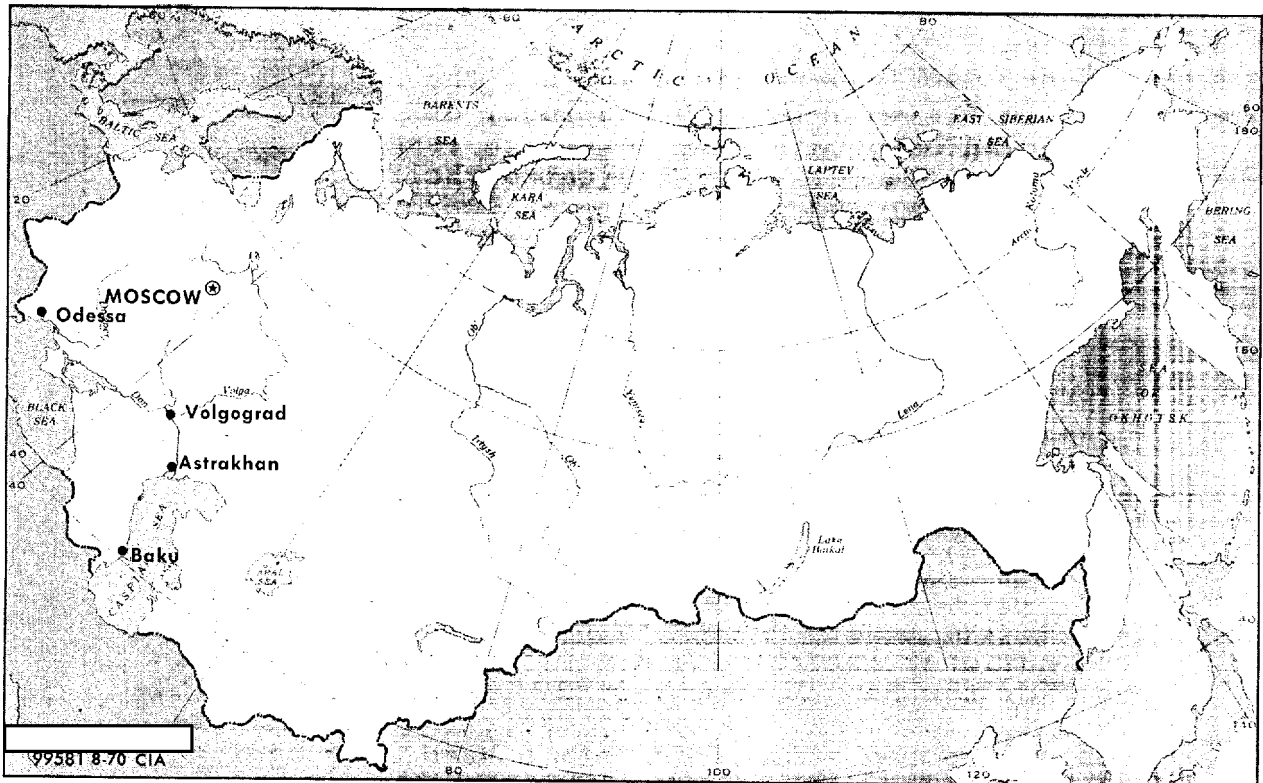
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Outbreak of Cholera in USSR



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USSR: The Ministry of Health has announced the outbreak of cholera in Astrakhan and Odessa.

The extent of the outbreak is unclear. A Health Ministry official has denied rumors of travel restrictions in the Crimea and the Caucasus as well as reports that the cities of Baku and Volgograd were also closed to travelers because of the outbreak.

Cases of cholera have been noted recently in Egypt and Iran. Soviet visitors to these countries may have carried the disease home with them despite a quarantine imposed by the Soviet Government.

In the past, over 40 percent of the outbreaks of infectious intestinal diseases in the Soviet Union have been reported in this same general area. Almost all could be traced to contaminated water and poor health practices. This is the first outbreak of cholera reported in the USSR since 1965.

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Laos: The Lao Communists have now agreed to Khang Khay--a town they hold--as the venue for talks with Prime Minister Souvanna's government. They had previously rejected Khang Khay as "insecure." The Communists apparently have not yet responded to Souvanna's other proposals and it may be some time before substantive talks get under way. The Communists' acceptance of Khang Khay and the earlier dropping of a bombing halt as a precondition to talks put Vientiane on the defensive. Many government leaders are convinced that the Communists will somehow turn the talks to their advantage and are, therefore, approaching them with considerable circumspection. [REDACTED]

* * * *

South Vietnam: Militant student leaders won the annual Saigon Student Union election on 9 August, retaining control of the union. In a press conference following their victory, the militants reiterated their determination to continue the student "struggle movement." The same students were behind the peace demonstrations earlier this summer in Saigon, staging relatively small but occasionally violent protests. In their press conference, however, they softened their "peace now" demands, and indicated the government should decide how to achieve peace. This suggests the militants want to avoid another government crackdown in the near future. [REDACTED]

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Uruguay: The government, operating under unprecedented powers authorized by Congress for 20 days--which can be extended--is continuing its crack-down on the Tupamaros. Thousands of soldiers and policemen are searching Montevideo for terrorists, and at least 24 Tupamaros have been netted in the past few days. [In a communiqué late yesterday, the Tupamaros announced that their two hostages are alive and that they have not yet been "sentenced."] The Uruguayan Government has been severely criticized in Brazil for not acceding to the terrorists' demands in order to obtain the release of the Brazilian diplomat. If he is killed, a serious deterioration in relations between the two neighbors seems likely. [redacted]

* * * *

Jamaica: Anaconda reportedly has altered its investment plans in Jamaica because of increased fears of nationalization. The US company has withdrawn from the proposed second-phase expansion of the alumina refinery owned jointly with Kaiser Aluminum and Reynolds Metals. Abandonment of the \$40-million project is a sharp setback for the Shearer government, which has been striving to overcome anxieties of investors about nationalization. For the moment, Anaconda and its associates plan to proceed with the \$70-million, first-phase expansion of the refinery. [redacted]

* * * *

Lebanon: The Chamber of Deputies is now scheduled to convene on 17 August to vote for a new president. Since ex-president Shihab's abrupt withdrawal from the campaign on 5 August, no candidate appears to have the support necessary for election. Both the majority Shihabist and the opposition Chamounist blocs are badly split among themselves and have been unable to agree upon any one candidate. It is possible, however, that establishment of a firm election date may encourage a majority to develop behind a noncontroversial, compromise candidate. [redacted]

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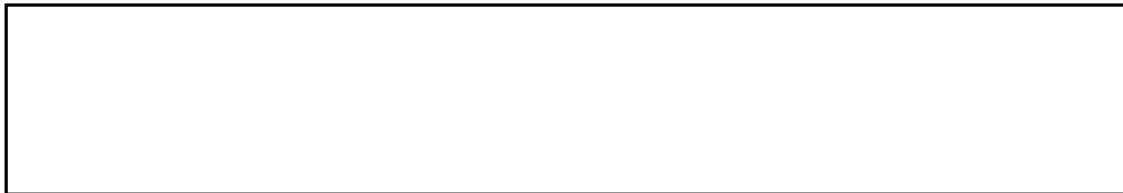
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Tunisia: The Bourguiba government is examining its foreign policy with the intention of re-establishing its credentials as a nonaligned state. The appointment in June of a new foreign minister, Mohamed Masmoudi, gave impetus to this reconsideration, as Masmoudi believes that Tunisia's standing in the third world suffers from too close a public identification with the US. Masmoudi last week received a visiting North Korean delegation but refused its request for recognition; he also claims that the East Germans are pressing for recognition. Should Tunisia eventually decide to recognize any of the divided states, however, the first probably would be North Vietnam.

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